



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,227	08/23/2001	Joseph Lenner	01AB082	1691

7590 03/24/2005  
William R. Walbrun  
Rockwell Automation (Allen-Bradley Co., Inc.)  
1201 South Second Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

EXAMINER

FRANKLIN, JAMARA ALZAIDA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.B

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/938,227

Applicant(s)

LENNER, JOSEPH

Examiner

Jamara A. Franklin

Art Unit

2876

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment is made of the amendment received on 10/18/04. Claims 1-34 are currently pending.

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

in claim 2, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "1" and "the";

in claim 3, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "1" and "the";

in claim 5, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "1" and "the";

in claim 6, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "1" and "the";

in claim 7, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "1" and "the";

in claim 9, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "8" and "the";

in claim 11, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "8" and "the";

in claim 13, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "8" and "the";

in claim 14, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "8" and "the";

in claim 15, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "8" and "the"; and

in claim 17, line 1, insert --wherein-- between "16" and "the".

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Honaga (US 5,796,179).

Honaga teaches a computer readable medium that stores computer executable components of a system that electronically controls a physical operation of dangerous equipment comprising:

an electronic key (ignition key 4) that stores electronic key data;

an electronic key reader (coil unit 6 with coil portion 16) that reads the electronic key data from the electronic key;

an electronic key data analyzer (disabling controller 8) that is associated with the electronic key reader, the electronic key data analyzer analyzes the read electronic key data and generates a disconnect control data based, at least in part, on the electronic key data;

a disconnecter (engine controller 10) that is associated with the electronic key data analyzer and the dangerous equipment, the disconnecter disables and re-enables operation of the dangerous equipment, based at least in part on the disconnect control data (col. 8, line 61-col. 9, line 6 and col. 10, lines 9-26);

the system wherein the electronic key reader obtains the electronic key data via at least one of reading a magnetic strip on an electronic key inserted in the electronic key reader,

Art Unit: 2876

receiving a radio frequency signal from an electronic key in transmission range of the electronic key reader and reading digital data from an integrated circuit memory chip on an electronic key;

the system wherein the disconnecter controls the flow of at least one of electricity, air, water and hydraulic fluid to the dangerous equipment;

the system further comprising a computer network, the computer network is coupled to one or more electronic key readers, one or more electronic key data analyzers, one or more disconnectors and one or more pieces of dangerous equipment, the computer network conveys a signal between one or more of the electronic key readers, the electronic key data analyzers, the disconnectors and the dangerous equipment;

the system wherein the signal comprises at least one of electronic key data, electronic key data analysis data, equipment data and disconnect control data;

the system wherein the electronic key reader further performs at least one of logging electronic data, logging times when the operation of the piece of dangerous equipment is enabled, logging electronic key holder medical information, logging electronic key holder tasks, logging electronic key holder identity, scheduling dangerous equipment operation, scheduling related operation and performing electronic data interchange; and

the system wherein the electronic key data comprises at least one of key identifying information, key holder identity information, key holder medical information, key holder equipment access permissions, key holder equipment qualifications, key holder supervisor contact information, key holder security information and key holder task.

Art Unit: 2876

***Response to Arguments***

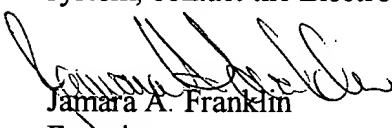
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamara A. Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jamara A. Franklin  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

JAF  
March 21, 2005

  
**THIEN M. LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**